(b) whether Government now considering the option to downgrade the work on affected National Highway stretches, where private participation is not forthcoming from four-laning to two-laning; and

(c) whether Government have also weighed the option to revert to engineering, procurement and construction mode for these stretches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government and it will be premature to give the details.

Per-Capita Highway Ratio in Bihar

†1781. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per-capita highway ratio in Bihar;

(b) the length of highways in kilometres that were constructed and repaired during the last three years; and

(c) the amount of money allocated by Government to the State of Bihar for this purpose, the details thereof, year-wise and work-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Per Capita ratio of National Highways in Bihar is 4.38 kms per one lakh population.

(b) During the last 3 years, 752 km of National Highways have been developed/improved in Bihar and 442 km have been repaired under Periodical Renewal in addition to repair of patches, repair of bridges and approaches under Special Repair, Flood Damage Repair and Ordinary Repair schemes.

(c) The details of allocations made by the Government during the last three years in Bihar is given below year-wise. The allocation is made for all the works on National Highways in the State and no work-wise allocation is made.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Rs. In crore)

Work/ scheme-wise	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Improvement/development of National Highways (NHs) through Original works (Plan)	76.52	83.00	79.51
Maintenance & Repairs (Non-Plan) of NHs.	30.46	29.46	46.28
National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase I and II through National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)	174.25	196.35	351.90
Maintenance of NHs prior to commencement of 4 laning through NHAI	4.55	10.87	11.11

Speed-breakers on National Highways

1782. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether speed-breakers or any other construction on National Highways to reduce/control the speed of motor-vehicles on certain points permissible;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that construction of speed-breakers and the likes have led to the accidents involving two wheelers and caused considerable damage to the four wheelers; and

(c) the guidelines/rules in force in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (c) Speed breakers, being impediments to free flow of traffic, apart from being safety hazard, are not allowed on National Highways as a policy. However, as per Ministry's guidelines provision of properly designed rumble strips are recommended at places like approaches to sharp curves or level crossings, congested or accident prone sections etc. to control the speed; but their indiscriminate provision is not allowed and location of rumble strips has to be approved by the Chief Engineer (National Highways) of the concerned State Public Works Department after satisfying himself of the actual requirement.

(b) No instance ot accident on account of provision of rumble strips has come to the notice of the Ministry.